

Sociological Studies 2005/2006

Sociological Studies is a peer-reviewed series of working papers written by researchers based at the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The first volume in the series was published in 1989 as 'Working Papers'. The series was subsequently renamed twice: in 2000 the title was changed to 'Sociological Papers' and in 2004 it was given its current title 'Sociological Studies'. The volumes are published in Czech or English, and the Czech volumes are accompanied by abstracts and summaries in Czech, English and German.

All published studies are based on the research projects conducted by researchers at the Institute. They cover a broad spectrum of interests and provide valuable information for scholars and students. Readers can learn about the results of research work conducted as part of completed or ongoing projects. A list of volumes published in the series to date is available at: <http://studie.soc.cas.cz/>.

In 2005 six volumes addressing a variety of topics were published in the series:

SS 05:1 Blanka Řeháková: *Measuring Value Orientations with the Use of S.H. Schwartz's Value Portraits* (in English)

The study acquaints readers with two methods of measuring value orientations developed by S.H. Schwartz, focusing especially on the Portrait Values Questionnaire that was used in the European Social Survey in 2002 and 2004. The analysis in the study uses ESS 2002 data sets from ten selected countries (the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland) and creates four higher order value types (conservation, openness to change, self-transcendence, self-enhancement). It is then shown how strongly these types are represented in each of the countries included in the analysis and how the percentages of represented types change in relation to sex, age, education, and religiosity. For the Czech Republic the odds of each of the types are modelled in relation to age, education, and religiosity.

SS 05:2 Tomáš Kostelecký: *Political Behaviour in Metropolitan Areas in the Czech Republic between 1990 and 2002 – Patterns, Trends and the Relation to Suburbanisation and Its Socio-Spatial Patterns* (in English)

The study deals with the political consequences of the suburbanisation process in the four largest metropolitan areas in the Czech Republic after 1989. Aggregate socio-economic data on the level of municipalities are used first for the creation of a typology of suburban communes. Then the electoral turnout in suburban municipalities is studied in relation to their socio-economic, cultural and geographical features. Finally, the effects of suburban development on voting behaviour are analysed. The analyses show that not all features of the political behaviour of the suburban population in the Czech Republic follow trends observable in the West, but most relations between socio-economic development and political behaviour in suburbs are similar.

SS 05:3 Tomáš Kostelecký – Jana Vobecká (eds.): *Regional Elites 2004* (in Czech)

This study presents an analysis of the characteristics, opinions and attitudes of regional elites in the Czech Republic. It is based on an empirical survey conducted in the autumn of 2004, just be-

fore the elections to the regional assemblies were held. The study looks at political, administrative, economic and cultural elites, focusing especially on how regional elites evaluate the functioning and the developmental potential of the regions, and on their willingness to co-operate with other actors. The study also attempts to reveal and describe the kinds of issues that the elected regional representatives and the regional administration must face. The first part of the study centres on an analysis of the social and economic background of the regional elites, their professional and political careers, value preferences, expressions of trust, and their attitudes towards social issues generally. The study is part of the outcome of the research project 'The Influence of Political Culture and Socio-economic and Institutional Factors on the Differences in the Way the Czech Regions Function'.

SS 05:4 Alena Křížková (ed.) – Radka Dudová – Hana Hašková – Hana Maříková:

Work/Life Balance in the Czech Republic: Policy, Time, Money, and Individual, Family, and Company Practices (in Czech)

The new labour market model that evolved in the Czech Republic after 1989 and the family strategies of women and men are two spheres that interact and overlap at various levels of society and in the individual strategies of those involved. The changes to the circumstances surrounding labour market participation that resulted from the economic, political, and cultural changes in Czech society and the effects of a global labour market have created a dynamic foundation, which has altered the entire atmosphere of society and the developmental trends within it and on which individuals, families, employers, and companies must base their life strategies. This study analyses the provisions and conditions currently available to the actors – individuals, households, and companies – in the form of social policy measures, financial options or benefits, and the time granted individuals to reconcile work and family life or for employers to facilitate a work/life balance for their employees. Using sociological and statistical data, an analysis is also made of the strategies employed to make use of these conditions and resources with a view to the gender structure of society – family relationships and the functioning of gender relations in the labour market. The issue of work/life balance is studied especially from the perspective of the legislative changes that have occurred in the sphere of family and employment policies, changes in employment and gender relations in the labour market and in the family, and the demographic trends in Czech society, which have been the subject of long-term study in the Gender & Sociology Department at the Institute of Sociology AS CR.

SS 05:5 Petra Rakušanová: Civil Society and Civic Participation in the Czech Republic
(in English)

This study defines the space of civic participation based on a differentiation between the terms 'civil society' and the 'third (non-governmental) sector'. Establishing this terminology and theoretical framework appears to be key, as these two terms are often confused. Notwithstanding its long tradition and topicality, the term 'civil society' is somewhat abstract and is today used mainly in theoretical and conceptual contexts, whereas the 'third sector' is more practical and concrete, as it offers the possibility of factual definition, and therefore, it is mainly used in empirical research. The key factor in the theoretical and empirical connection between the terms 'civic participation' and 'civil society' is the fact that a democratic political system is based on the opportunities that citizens have to participate in and influence public affairs. This study also defines civil society historically and attempts to conceptualise civic participation in the Czech Republic. Consequently, by determining the role of non-governmental organisations and through a description and analysis of the character of the non-governmental sector, the study aims at defining the borders of the civic sector and civic participation in the Czech Republic.

SS 05:6 Jana Stachová: *Civil Society in the Regions of the Czech Republic* (in Czech)

The subject of this volume is a case study aimed at examining the level of civil society in the regions of the Czech Republic. The research is primarily based on a qualitative case study of two selected regions (administrative regions), which represent as different as possible types in terms of the state of civil society, using interviews with representatives of the non-profit sector. The case studies focus primarily on the state and development of the non-profit sector, which is what the author conceives as the key, constitutive element of Czech civil society. One of the aims is therefore to describe in detail the situation and the development of the non-profit sector in selected regions, and in this connection to identify the socio-cultural and the institutional factors that may influence the level of civic participation. The author looks mainly at what kind of institutional features can contribute to the shape of civil society and especially influence how local and regional governments affect the state and development of civil society in the region.

Studies to be published in 2006 include:

SS 06:1 Zdeněk R. Nešpor – Jiří Večerník (eds.): *Socio-economic Values, Policies, and Institutions in the Period of the Czech Republic's Accession to the European Union* (in Czech)

The volume presents a study of some of the central dimensions of the complex changes Czech society has experienced in connection with the transformation after 1989 and the country's accession to the European Union. It expands on standard mainstream economic, sociological and political science approaches to also take into account the historical dimensions of these processes. The study is methodologically grounded in the tradition of economic sociology and the conceptualisation of economic culture; it also analyses the differences between objective social facts and their ideological, political and media representation and looks at transition policies and their social reception. Special attention is devoted to analyses of the labour market, social and family policy, the monetary system, education, health care, and the issue of contemporary international migration. Qualitative field research is used to compare the business values of domestic and foreign business people doing business in the Czech Republic and the economic culture of Czech public administration, while comparative analyses based on international quantitative surveys are used to examine work and family values and attitudes on contemporary religiosity/spirituality. A key question that the authors attempt to address is whether various types of (economic) cultures – (post)communist, Western or different Western types, or even that which preceded the rise of the socialist dictatorship – have clashed, changed, or fused in the processes of transformation and European integration. In other words, whether and how much the Czech Republic is already in Europe and/or how much it is still moving towards it.

SS 06:2 Zdenka Vajdová – Daniel Čermák – Michal Illner: *Autonomy and Co-operation: Effect of the Municipal System Established in 1990* (in Czech)

This study primarily examines two processes that public administration went through at the local level beginning in the early 1990s: a process whereby municipalities were broken up into autonomous units, and a process whereby these autonomous municipalities voluntarily came together to form co-operative groups or unions of municipalities. The description and research on the first of these two processes drew on data from a database of newly emerged municipalities, which was created for this purpose. The description and research of the second of the two processes is based on a survey that was conducted among representatives of the unions of municipalities and on several case studies of specific unions. The study also contains a discussion of the size of municipalities, the effectiveness of their administration, and local democracy, a review of inter-mu-

nicipal co-operation in some European countries, and a look at the media image of co-operation between municipalities that emerged from content analyses of the magazines 'Public Administration' and 'Modern Municipality'. The study is part of the outcome of work on the project 'Inter-Municipal Co-operation – An Element of Local Democracy and an Effective Tool of Autonomous Local Government'.

SS 06:3 Petra Rakušanová – Blanka Řeháková: *Participation, Democracy and Citizenship in a European Context* (in Czech)

This study focuses on the relationship between participation and citizenship and their influence on the formation and functioning of effective representative democracy. In the first part of the study the authors introduce the theoretical framework they apply to their study of democracy, participation and citizenship. In the second part, which contains an analysis of democracy, they outline a practical framework of how democracy functions and apply this in further analysis using data from the ISSP 2004 on citizenship. Some of the study's basic findings are that socio-demographic factors have a fundamental effect on participation and people's trust in election participation and that trust in institutions is clearly influenced by how satisfied respondents are with the political and economic situation in the country. Evidently trust in institutions is based on how well the state fulfils its obligations. The study also shows that there is a clear and direct connection between trust in one's fellow EU citizens and participation in the elections to the European Parliament. The vitality and legitimacy of democracy in the Czech Republic and in Europe generally depends on establishing effective ties between political elites and citizens. The increased involvement of citizens in political and civic life should be encouraged by the active efforts of political representatives.

SS 06:4 Hana Hašková: *The Phenomenon of Childlessness in a Sociological and Demographic Perspective* (in Czech)

This study examines the phenomenon of voluntary and involuntary childlessness, focusing in particular on the occurrence of this phenomenon in the Czech social context. It presents a summary of the studies on childlessness in the Czech Republic before 1989; an analysis of the public and professional discourse on childlessness, declining fertility rates, and the postponement of parenthood to a later reproductive age in the Czech Republic; a summary of the theories that aim to explain childlessness, the current decline in the fertility rate and the postponement of parenthood in Central and Eastern European countries; an outline of the gaps in research on childhood to date in this region; and the conceptual model and methodology applied in a study on childlessness in Czech society currently under way. It also contains a demographic analysis that on the one hand transversally compares a) the basic characteristics of first-time mothers, b) the fertility rate of first births, c) the birth-order structure of children born, and d) the total fertility rate in Europe, and on the other hand makes a generational comparison of a) the percentage of women who remain unmarried and b) the completed fertility rate of women born in 1965 in Europe, concluding with a comparison of the percentages of women who remain childless in different European countries and a prognosis of future trends. It presents a sociological analysis of a worldwide online discussion of voluntarily childless people and addresses two basic questions: How do voluntarily childless people view the majority, pro-family oriented environment around them, and on the basis of this analysis what kind of 'childfree' types of people can be identified? Finally it analyses and compares the image of biological childlessness and the image of low fertility presented in the Czech public media in the years between 1994 and 2004.